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# VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S  
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER  
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 13 NO. 1

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2010



## COMMUNITY MOURNS ARDATH RODALE

Former CEO of  
Rodale  
Publishing, long  
time AIDS activist,  
supporter of FACT

and the LV Gay Men's Chorus, and outspoken advocate for GLBT equality who worked with the leaders of PA Diversity Network on the passage of Allentown's addition of sexual orientation and gender identity to its anti-discrimination ordinance, Ardath Rodale, died December 18, 2009, in her home. She was 81. She will be greatly missed by our community, which sends deepest condolences to her family.



Senator Casey speaks to GLBT activists at roundtable discussion

## PDN INVITED TO DC BY SEN. CASEY & WHITE HOUSE

PA Diversity Network activists & families attended a GLBT issues roundtable with 22 other PA GLBT activists, organized by Senator Robert Casey's office. Attendees then visited the Capitol and White House for VIP Holiday Tours.

See photos &amp; reports on this historic meeting on pages 2,7,8,12



## FREEDOM TO MARRY ACTIVISM PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley to lead Marriage Equality Rally at Lehigh Valley Court House in Allentown. Feb. 12, 10 AM - 12 Noon. MCCLV's goal this year is for 100 same-sex couples to apply for marriage licenses.

MCCLV is planning the 10th Anniversary Interfaith National Freedom to Marry Worship Service for Saturday, February 13, 2010, 6pm - 9pm at Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley, 930 N. 4th Street, Allentown, PA 18102.

To participate &amp; for more information see page 2.



## PHOTO PROJECT TO BE IN CAPITOL ROTUNDA WORK FOR EQUALITY IN HARRISBURG SPECIAL ACTIVISM DAY - MONDAY FEB 8

Bolton Winnpenny, PA Diversity Network's Harrisburg activist, is working with other groups in planning a major pro-GLBT week long rights effort at the Capitol during Freedom to Marry week - February 6 through 14.

Please take the day off and volunteer for the special activist day: Monday, February 8, to visit members of the legislature, take part in the press conference, and view the entire PA Diversity Photo Project- 400 Same-sex Couples: Facing Inequality - that will be on display in the Capitol Rotunda for the entire week and then join in the marriage rights RALLY after that.

Call 610-432-5449 for other volunteer opportunities during that week. Read about the entire week of events at a special web site: <http://FreedomToMarryPA.org>

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.





## LIZ OUT LOUD

### ROSES AND RASPBERRIES

By Liz Bradbury

It's the end of the year and here's our piece on who did good things for the community in 2009 and who did not. (This list is not in any hierarchical order.)

#### ROSES!

\*\*\*Heartfelt kudos and boisterous applause for the columnists of the Valley Gay Press - Scott Laubner,

Steve Libby, Donnie and Earl Snyder, Sue Sneeringer, A'Ja Lyons, Patricia Sullivan, and me. As the editor and production staff of the VGP, I know how hard it is to churn out a good column every month. Most small GLBT papers have no original content. VGP has all original content and that's why our readership is very high.

\*\*\*High praise for all the GLBT advocacy and activist groups in the community (see the list on the calendar page). With the economic slump, because donations are down, running these groups has become harder. Yet this year, many of the local groups have pulled together to do events that fund multiple organizations. The spirit of cooperation and support has been great. Thanks everyone! Readers, please don't forget to financially support your local groups.

\*\*\*The passage of the addition of sexual orientation and gender identity to Reading's anti-discrimination ordinance was a major event in 2009, protecting everyone in the city from employment, housing, and public accommodation discrimination based on those classes. The local resident who did major work for a year to achieve the passage was openly gay activist Ernest Schlegel. Ernie called us at PDN asking about ways to support GLBT rights in Reading. I suggested working on the civil rights law, and was able to connect him with Steve Glassman, Chair of the PA Human Relations Commission who had also been working on this passage. Maria Baez was the City Council person who introduced and sponsored the legislation. Thanks to all of them and the other 5 Council people who voted yes on the bill, along with members of Reading Pride Celebration who also supported this passage. Now 80,000 more GLBT people in PA are protected from discrimination.

\*\*\*Many thanks to Jesse Salazar of Senator Robert Casey's office. Jesse organized the recent PA GLBT roundtable in Washington DC, and has further committed to additional meetings around the state to network PA activists and help share information and resources.

\*\*\*Here's to Dean Hiatt and the Rainbow Players at Metropolitan Community Church. This relatively new groups makes a herculean effort to support other organizations with each of its productions. This year, Rainbow Players productions benefitted itself and Pride, PA Diversity Network, FACT, Turning Point, MCCLV, and others.

\*\*\*After many years of advocacy work by GLEE members at Air Products, with special efforts over the years by Charles Versaggi and Tracy Denton, along with supportive administrators and upper level staff, Air Products has finally instituted domestic partner benefits for the same-sex partners of employees. Air Products is a Fortune 500 company is one of 19 LV employers that employs more than 1000 people. Now 12 give DP benefits.

\*\*\*Bolton Winpenny - the former publisher and COO of Pansy Magazine ended production of Pansy last year, but from there he jumped right into nearly full-time activism work with the progressive state-wide organization Interfaith Alliance, and he became the Harrisburg Representative of PA Diversity Network. Bolton, along with the support and work of Alana Berger of UUC in Harrisburg, has stepped up all the events of the Harrisburg Freedom to Marry week (beginning Feb 8), including the presentation of the PDN photo project in the Capitol Rotunda. Read more about it on page 1.

\*\*\*Earlier this year, Jerry Schmidt organized a major fundraiser comedy drag show for PDN at Rainbow Mt. Jerry also set up and produced a number of other fundraisers for other local GLBT groups. Here's to Jerry.

\*\*\*State Representative Jennifer Mann secured a \$5000 revitalization grant for PDN through the department of Community

## TRISH'S COLUMN

By Patricia Sullivan

#### Economic Development.

\*\*\*State Senator Daylin Leach not only sponsored SB 935 - the PA Same-sex Marriage Equality bill, but has used it to open an excellent dialog about equal rights and has spoken brilliantly about it in debates and public forums.

\*\*\*Many thanks and accolades for PDN's Board members: Adrian Shanker, Any Smart, Hannah Mesouani, Jeff Faller, Donnie and Earl Snyder, (Liz Bradbury and Patricia Sullivan). And also hearty thanks and cheers for all the other local GLBT organizations' board members who support and lead all our local groups.

#### RASPBERRIES!

\*\*\*St. Luke's Hospital -- The second largest employer in the Lehigh Valley has once again demonstrated its lack of support for its GLBT employees by not only denying same-sex domestic partner benefits, but by offering a weak and insulting handbook explanation that included the phrases: "Since the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not recognize a significant other (usually referred to as a domestic partner) relationship as legal, we have not extended coverage to domestic partners." And: "During the current economic conditions, we will not be implementing any changes that would add cost to the health benefits we provide. Our main focus is to find ways to reduce expenses without adversely affecting our employees." Obviously adversely affecting Gay and Lesbian employees is of no concern to St. Lukes.

\*\*\*Godfrey Daniels in Bethlehem -- After all these years, Godfrey's is the only organization that professes to be progressive, but still patently refuses to sign on to the PDN nondiscrimination policy.

\*\*\*National anti-gay organizations that have local offices - Boy Scouts of America, Knights of Columbus, The Salvation Army, Sacred Heart Hospital. Each of these groups have blatantly anti-gay mission statements on their web sites. Mission statements like these literally encourage discrimination and even violence against GLBT people.

\*\*\*Moravian College -- This year Moravian College literally reversed its student and faculty non-discrimination policy by removing the terms sexual orientation and gender identity. When asked to reinstate the policy, College administrators have refused to act. To paraphrase Keith Olberman - Moravian College is currently the worst organization in the world.



## FREEDOM TO MARRY RALLY FEB 12 - CELEBRATION FEB 13

On February 12, 2010, Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley will once again lead a Marriage Equality Rally at the Lehigh County Courthouse. Please make plans to be at 5th and Hamilton Sts, Allentown on Friday, Febr. 12, 10 AM - 12 Noon. MCCLV's goal this year is for 100 same-sex couples to apply for marriage licenses (licenses will be denied but kept on file as a historical record). If you and your partner plan to participate, please send an e-mail to MCCLV's Office Administrator, Brian Jones at office@mcclv.org with your names and contact information.

Also MCCLV will hold the 10th Anniversary Interfaith Freedom to Marry Worship Service on Saturday, February 13, 6pm - 9pm at MCCLV, 930 N. 4th Street, Allentown, PA 18102. Over a dozen clergy people representing a variety of faiths will help celebrate this special evening. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson, leader of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. On Sunday, February 14, 10:30am, Rev. Wilson will also be preaching at MCCLV's regular Sunday morning worship.



# HOT NEWS

## HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

**HAVEN MEETINGS:** every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTQ youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino [havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com](mailto:havennyouthgroup@hotmail.com) or visit Haven's Web page at [www.uucvpa.org/haven](http://www.uucvpa.org/haven).

## HAVEN NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

HAVEN needs your help. HAVEN is the LV's only lgbt social and support group for teens ages 14 to 20. Haven needs adult volunteers to facilitate weekly meetings on Wednesday evenings in Bethlehem. Facilitators should enjoy working with teens, and should have an ability to deal with lgbt youth in an appropriate and mature way, as demonstrated by years of life, job, or educational experience. Commitment is one Wednesday night per month. Criminal/child abuse background checks required. Training provided by HAVEN. Pls contact Pete Pellegrino, [peterp10@ptd.net](mailto:peterp10@ptd.net), 610-967-1654.

## GLOSS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

**The autumn schedule is now in effect.**

**Tennis:** Sundays at 3:00pm at the Parkland High School courts on Cedar Crest Blvd. **Volleyball:** Thursdays at 6:30pm at West Catasaqua Playground, 2301 Pine St., Whitehall. **Bowling:** the 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown. **Racquetball:** every Tuesday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website.

Email: [Info@gloss.org](mailto:Info@gloss.org)  
Website: [www.gloss.org](http://www.gloss.org).

## GLORA

GLORA-The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown [GLORA@dejazze.com](mailto:GLORA@dejazze.com) - <http://glora.1colony.com> GLORA is a social group that produces a regular newsletter for members.

On Sunday December 6 GLORA visited Longwood Gardens Christmas Display - Always fun going to Longwood Gardens.

On Saturday December 19 -- GLORA had its annual anniversary dinner, pot luck/open house.

Thursday December 31 -- GLORA will host a New Year's Eve Party!!! Meet at 8:00 pm and bring a dish to share. Be sure to call Call (610) 432-9172 to RSVP.

## RAINBOW YOUTH N.E. PA GROUP MEETINGS

in the Stourdsburg & Milford PA areas. For information and group meeting times and location: email: [rainbowyouth@hotmail.com](mailto:rainbowyouth@hotmail.com).

## GLOSS BOWLING

GLOSS Bowling meets on the second Friday of the month. Jerry Makos, the new GLOSS Bowling coordinator, must contact the bowling alley to reserve the correct number of lanes. If you are interested, please contact Jerry at [jerry\\_makos@hotmail.com](mailto:jerry_makos@hotmail.com).

Bowlers meet near the snack bar around 8:45 pm, and usually start to bowl around 9:00 pm, which is when the league bowlers are finished. New people are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is no competition, so you do not have to be a good bowler. GLOSS is there for fun and camaraderie with other GLBTA people.

## LV BEARS

Lehigh Valley Bears social group meets at the Stonewall, 28 N 10th St. in Allentown, at 8 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at the end of the bar under the moosehead. Bears and bear admirers are welcome. Contact Ira Fine at: [iramfine@aol.com](mailto:iramfine@aol.com) or 610-767-7363 for information. Lehigh Valley Bears have a yahoo group :<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lvbears> See a Bears definition at PDN's web site.

## RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA. Hotline: 610-882-0558.

## UPCOMING PRIDE MEETINGS

There will be no December Pride GLV board meeting due to the holidays. The next meeting is the Annual Meeting of Pride on Thursday, January 28, 2009 at 7pm. This meeting will also include the election of new board members and officers. If anyone is interested in a board position with Pride GLV, please contact [info@prideglv.org](mailto:info@prideglv.org). You must be a paid member of Pride to vote at the Annual Meeting, please visit the website to renew your 2010 membership at [www.prideglv.org](http://www.prideglv.org)

## CIVIC THEATRE AUDITIONS LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Auditions for Civic Theatre of Allentown's production of Little Shop of Horrors will be held on Sunday, January 10th at 2pm in the rehearsal hall above Civic's 19th Street Theatre at 527 N 19th Street in Allentown.

Actors should prepare 16-32 bars of a song from Little Shop of Horrors sung by the character they would like to play. Example: Actors interested in playing Seymour could sing 'Grow For Me,' 'Sudden Changes,' or anything else that the character of Seymour sings in the show.

All who are interested in auditioning should make an effort to attend this audition as alternate times will likely not be available.

Little Shop of Horrors is one of storied writing duo Alan Menken and Howard Ashman's most treasured accomplishments; it won both the Drama Critics Circle Award and the Drama Desk Award for Best Musical. This rock musical, with music composed by Menken in the style of early 1960s rock and roll, doo-wop and early Motown, is guaranteed fun for audiences of all ages!

Civic Theatre will produce Little Shop of Horrors in Civic's 19th Street Theatre from February 19th through March 7th in Civic's historic 19th Street Theatre. Civic Artistic Director William Sanders will direct with Justin Brehm providing musical direction. Tickets are currently on sale at [www.CivicTheatre.com](http://www.CivicTheatre.com) or by calling 610.432.8943.

See [www.CivicTheatre.com](http://www.CivicTheatre.com).

## BOOK RELEASE AT CIVIC THEATRE

Civic Theatre of Allentown, currently in the middle of its 20th Anniversary production of A Christmas Carol, held a party on Thursday, December 3rd to celebrate the release of 'A Christmas Carol: the Commemorative Script.' Adapted from the original Charles Dickens novel by William Sanders and Sharon Lee Glassman is available on Amazon.com.



## GENTLEMEN OF BERKS & BEYOND

GOBAB is a social group for GBT men of Berks County and beyond. CHECK OUT GOBAB EVENTS AND PICTURES AT: [www.gobab.org](http://www.gobab.org) Also visit us at: [www.facebook.com/people/Gentlemen-Of-Berks/1500619309](http://www.facebook.com/people/Gentlemen-Of-Berks/1500619309); PLUS <http://thecentralvoice.ning.com/profile/@GentlemenOfBerksandBeyond>; OR [http://www.myspace.com/\\_gobab](http://www.myspace.com/_gobab); AND [http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gentlemen\\_of\\_berks](http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/gentlemen_of_berks) p.o. box 13592, Reading PA 19612, 610.451.5737 after 6:00 PM

"all men are equal in voice and soul"

## LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

The SPECTRUM offers education, peer support, positive role models & recreation for LGBTQA youth in Berks County. Meetings: Wednesday evenings, 2nd floor, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading. Questions? Call 610-376-0137 or visit <http://www.myspace.com/LGBTQPP>. To volunteer, contact (Amber Brown, Senior Community Educator/SPECTRUM facilitator) at [abrown@PlanItPA.org](mailto:abrown@PlanItPA.org).

## VISION OF HOPE MCC IN READING

Metropolitan Community Church - Vision of Hope (based in Lancaster) offers Bible Study in the Reading, PA area at Quaker Meeting House 108 N. 6th St. Reading, 7pm on the following Tuesdays: 1/12/10 & 1/26/2010, 2/9/10 & 2/23/10, 3/9/10 & 3/23/10. For information: Rev. Deb Coggin - (717) 682-1873, [vohpastordeb@verizon.net](mailto:vohpastordeb@verizon.net). Vision of Hope also has social events.

## ALL SOULS ECUMENICAL CHURCH

All All Souls is an inclusive and welcoming church with a primary outreach to the GLBT community. The church worships in the chapel at 640 Centre Ave. Reading, PA. For more information: 610-621-1738 or on the web at [www.allsoulsecumenical.org](http://www.allsoulsecumenical.org)

## PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, [www.eastern-pa-pflag.org](http://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org). e-mail: [info@eastern-pa-pflag.org](mailto:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org). Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd. Wed., New Location see web site. 570-620-1234. Pottsville - 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail [pflagpottsville@hotmail.com](mailto:pflagpottsville@hotmail.com).

**PFLAG meeting dates for 2009: Allentown:** First Tuesday of the month. Monroe Meetings held 1st Wednesdays, monthly at Hughes Library in Stroudsburg 7pm to 9pm in the boardroom.

## READING PRIDE COMMITTEES

Reading Pride Celebration The various committees will meet Wednesdays at 7:00 PM at the Cafe Waldorf at 6th & Oley in Reading: Fundraising, PR & Marketing on December 30th; Entertainment on January 6th; and Community Development, Vendors & Interfaith Pride Prayer Service on Jan. 11.

## READING PRIDE CELEBRATION GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING 3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH 7:00 PM, CANAL STREET PUB 535 CANAL STREET, READING

**READING PRIDES MARDI GRAS** Come celebrate on Saturday, February 13th at 10:00 PM at the Red Star Saloon Bar 11 S 10th St. in Reading

## RACC GSA

Reading Area Community College's Gay/Straight Alliance. Open to all current RACC students. For room location call Kym Kleinsmith: 610-372-4721 x5265. Please join the group & help move RACC's GSA forward!

## GLBT SUPPORT GROUP BERKS COUNTY

LGBTQ Support Group at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor. Please pre-register. 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County. 610-385-3155 [www.sanctuarycounseling.com](http://www.sanctuarycounseling.com) VGP Drop-Off spot.

## SAVE THE DATE A BARK & WINE FOR PEOPLE & THEIR DOG CHILDREN

PA Diversity Network is planning a Bark and Wine at Cold Nose Lodge 235 West Penn Ave. in Alburtis, PA to benefit PDN. for February 28 from 2-4 pm. Pet photography and items for sale while doggies play and parents socialize. Donation \$10.00.

## QUOTE

"Ellen DeGeneres: An out lesbian with a successful talk show is remarkable. And as time goes on, Ellen gets more and more vocal about LGBT issues -- and the world still loves her. Now most everyone in the country 'knows a lesbian.' That makes voting against us difficult. Portia is like icing on a lesbian cake. And lesbian cake is damn tasty." -- From AfterEllen.com

## SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

Nationally syndicated SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Manv thanks to Nicole! See more Sylvia cartoons at the Sylvia website: [www.nicolehollander.com](http://www.nicolehollander.com).

Her Alien Lover worries that capping the pay of senior execs will have grave consequences.

I fear a brain drain...top talent will flee Wall Street!

AND GO WHERE, Honey?

"I've got it!" He shouted. "I'll start a new Wall Street... pay those guys everything they ask AND MORE! tax-free perks AND bonuses beyond their wildest dreams!" "Where would you put this new financial district?" I asked. "Right here," He said pointing to a tiny planet in a galaxy far far away. "Good idea!" I said.

FLY ME TO THE MOON...



# SOOZ VIEWS<sup>5</sup>

CHURCH, STATE & C STREET

By Sue Sneeringer

Awhile ago I bought Jeff Sharlet's book, *THE FAMILY*, because it dealt with the issue of separation of church and state, one that always was and will be of great interest and importance to me, one I consider a cornerstone of democracy. Little did I know how seriously the book would undermine my "faith" that the separation ever existed.

Sharlet first reports details of his undercover residence at The Family's "C Street" home in Washington, D.C., the "C" for "Christian," I suppose, a takeoff on "K Street," where lobbyists, PACS, lawyers, etc., tell Congress what to do. Basic tenets of the Family's creed are outlined against the backdrop of daily life at the house where all sorts of the powerful (mostly white, mostly Republican, ALL male) legislators live, visit, or hide from the press (re: wives and/or mistresses inquiries about the spending of public monies, etc.).

The book then outlines our nation's LONG history of preachers in bed with those who govern (figuratively speaking...of course!?!), to realize "the dream of a Christian nation," all the way back to Jonathan Edwards in 1735 (yeah...I didn't know who he was either), all as a means of defining the source from which Doug Coe and the Family of 2010 and this blight on democracy have sprung.

You may ask what this has to do with the price of a mocha latte...or democracy, for that matter. Well, if you watch Rachel "Goddess of Cable TV" Maddow you have some idea about Coe and the Family from Sharlet's visits there. And, most recently how many Congressional fingerprints are plastered on Uganda's "Kill The Gays" bill, U.S. STATE officials doing the LORD'S WORK, as defined by C Street. I believe Maddow's show is unique for many reasons, but she is also at present the ONLY one at her level of media talking about C Street and the Family.

Make no mistake, Doug Coe and the Family aren't just interested in making a "Christian nation" (there goes Jesus, rolling over in his tomb again) on our shores but on ALL shores, and, by any means necessary (the history of the Family's collusion with murderous dictators is outlined in the book, too). I'd like to take the Ugandan bill personally, and, of course, I do, but "the gays" are akin to a big zit on the nose of humankind in the Family's grand scheme. Easily targeted, vilified, scapegoated, removed. The bigger problem for Coe & C Street is the cancer of secularism, each of us unique, free to believe or not, independent of the need for church OR state to instruct us on how to live, equal in ALL things, including (HORRORS!) but not limited to, marriage rights.

The Doug Coes of this world can only do what they do when no one is really watching. Thanks to Sharlet and Maddow and their reporting on Coe and The Family, I at least have a little faith that the line may be drawn again SOMEWHERE, if only because we can now recognize one of its most determined enemies.

## READING PRIDE RECEPTION

Reading Pride thanks everyone for attending its recent reception celebrating the inclusion of the LGBT community into the City of Reading's Human Relations ordinance. With this recent historic vote, Reading joined the 16 other communities across the state of Pennsylvania that have extended protection to LGBT people. The reception was held at the Canal Street Pub and Restaurant in Reading and was attended by City Council members, local and state politicians, representatives of State elected officials, media, "Spectrum" Reading's LGBT youth group and officers and members of Reading Pride. Remarks were offered by Steve Glassman, Chair of the Pennsylvania Human Rights Commission, Richard Spangler, Reading Pride's President and Donald Maher, Reading Pride's PR and Marketing Chair. At the reception canned goods were collected for a community based food bank and "Angel Tree" cards were distributed for the later collection of holiday presents for local needy children. The reception concluded with cake and a champagne toast.

## PA DIVERSITY NETWORK YOUTH INITIATIVE

The PA Diversity Network Youth Initiative serves as a financial resource for special projects undertaken by Lehigh Valley and Berks County LGBT youth organizations.

Groups may request up to \$200 per program – but must make the request at least 3 weeks prior to the event.. K-12 public or private school groups, religiously affiliated, and independent groups are limited to two grants per year. College groups are limited to one grant per semester.

At the end of the program, the group is required to submit an After Action Report to the PA Diversity Network Youth Initiative.

### Eligibility requirements:

Group must be based in Lehigh Valley or Berks County, PA. Group must be youth led and serve populations under age 25.

**Projects that will be funded must fit the following criteria:**

The project must be youth-led.

Grant request must be filled out by a youth leader.

Project must focus on advancing equality and justice to the LGBT Community. Project must serve an educational and/or advocacy purpose to those outside of the grantee.

### How to apply:

Email a one-page description of the project your organization would like funded to: [info@padiversity.org](mailto:info@padiversity.org)

### Don't forget to include:

date of the project  
project goals and objectives  
primary contact for project  
who will benefit from the project  
what the money will be used for

**Selection Committee:** Adrian Shanker, Chair, Chris Alvaro, Alanna Berger, Liz Bradbury, Jeff Faller

## A NEW CIVIC THEATRE SEASON! FOUR

**Little Shop of Horrors:** (Feb/Mar '10), **RENT:** (May '10) Season subscriptions are on sale, August 10. Single tickets on sale September 8. Online ticketing returns this season see: [www.civictheatre.com](http://www.civictheatre.com).



**2009 RECAP  
MCLLY'S HELPING HANDS  
MINISTRY WINS AHRC AWARD IN OCTOBER**



# 6 CALENDAR

All Souls Ecumenical Churchworships every Sunday, 640 Centre St Reading, 610-621-1738  
www.allsoulsecumenical.org

**Am Haskalah**, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa, 610-435-3775

**ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women**, **AIDS WALK** - see **FACT**

**BGMMSG** - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksgmsg@aol.com

**CIVIC and 19th St. Theater**, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <civictheater.com>

**CUUPS** -- at the UUCLV. uuclv\_cuups@yahoo.com

**Enigma Players** -- qacres@prolog.net

**FACT** - Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

**Gay Matter Magazine** -- **GLEE** at Air Products

**GLORA** - Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

**GLOSS** - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

**GLOW** - at PPL

**GOBAB** - Gentlemen of Berks and Beyond www.gobab.org PO box 13592, Reading, PA 19612, 610-451-5737 after 6pm,

**HAVEN** GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

**Integrity** - Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net

**Infoline** - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

**INTERWEAVE** -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays.. Interweave\_UUCLV@yahoo.com

**Kutztown Univ GLBT Radio** show "Making Waves," w/ Jason Lincoln Tuesdays 4pm -6pm in town: 88.3 FM, 1670 AM. In Eastern Berks: Serv Elec Cable 24 or Hometown Utilicom: 41. Streaming on-line everywhere at http://kur.kutztown.edu

**LVGMC** - Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvmgc.org> 1-800-348-2813, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St, Bethlehem

**Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition**- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

**LV Transmen** - 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

**MCCLV** - Metropolitan Community Church, Lehigh Valley, 930 N 4th St., Allentown Services: 10:30 am info @ mmclv.org, http://www.mcclv.org 610-709-8800

**Muhlenberg GSA** Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.2444

**NCC** - Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541 (#1386) or 610-767-0296

**19th St & Civic Theatre** - 610.432.8943

**Out There** - Students at Cedar Crest College

**PA-Diversity Network** - 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

**PFLAG** - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

## JANUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 WDIY BEARS GLOSS RAC
3 GLOSS RAC	4 RAA SC	5 LVGMC LV PFLAG GLOSS RAC	6 SPECTRUM MCC HAVEN FW-WDIY	7 RAA GLOSS V-Ball	8 GLOSS Bowling	9 GLOSS RAC REN
10 MCC GLOSS Tennis CIVIC GLOSS WDIY AllSouls	11 RAA	12 GLOSS RAC LVGMC Kutz	13 FW-WDIY HAVEN SPECTRUM	14 RAA GLOSS V-Ball GLOSS RAC	15	16 WDIY GLOSS RAC
17 MCC GLOSS Tennis WDIY AllSouls	18 RAA SC Reading Pride MTG	19 R PFLAG GLOSS RAC LVGMC	20 M PFLAG FW-WDIY HAVEN SPECTRUM	21 P PFLAG B PFLAG GLOSS V-Ball	22 Ani DiFranco	23 WDIY GLOSS RAC
24 WDIY GLOSS Tennis MCC GLOSS WDIY AllSouls	25 RAA	26 GLOSS RAC LVGMC	27 FW-WDIY HAVEN SPECTRUM	28 RAA GLOSS V-Ball MCC 20-30 GL V Pride	29	30 WDIY GLOSS RAC

## FEBRUARY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA SC	2 LVGMC GLOSS RAC LV PFLAG	3 HAVEN FW-WDIY SPECTRUM	4 RAA GLOSS V-Ball	5 GLOSS V-Ball	6 GLOSS RAC BEARS
7 MCC GLOSS Tennis WDIY AllSouls	8 RAA Harrisburg Action	9 LVGMC GLOSS RAC	10 HAVEN FW-WDIY SPECTRUM	11 RAA	12 GLOSS Bowling MCC Court	13 GLOSS RAC MCCCLV REN
14 MCC	15 SC RAA	16 LVGMC R PFLAG GLOSS RAC	17 HAVEN M PFLAG SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	18 RAA B PFLAG GLOSS V-Ball P PFLAG	19	20 GLOSS RAC
21 WDIY GLOSS Tennis WDIY AllSouls Interweave	22 RAA	23 LVGMC GLOSS RAC	24 HAVEN SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	25 RAA GLOSS V-Ball	26 Touchstone	27 Touchstone WDIY GLOSS RAC
28 Bark & Wine GLOSS JUCLV GLOSS Tennis WDIY AllSouls						

## MARCH 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 GLOSS RAC LVGMC LV PFLAG	3 HAVEN SPECTRUM FW-WDIY	4 RAA GLOSS V-Ball	5	6
7 Hineini Movie	8 RAA SC	9 GLOSS RAC LVGMC Hineini Movie	10 FW-WDIY SPECTRUM HAVEN	11 GLOSS V-Ball RAA	12 GLOSS Bowling	13 REN GLOSS RAC WDIY
14 WDIY GLOSS Tennis WDIY AllSouls Interweave	15 RAA Reading Pride MTG	16 GLOSS RAC LVGMC R PFLAG	17 M PFLAG FW-WDIY SPECTRUM HAVEN	18 RAA B PFLAG GLOSS V-Ball P PFLAG	19	20 GLOSS RAC WDIY
21 MCC GLOSS Tennis WDIY AllSouls Interweave	22 SC RAA	23 LVGMC GLOSS RAC	24 FW-WDIY HAVEN SPECTRUM	25 Lily Tomlin MCC	26	27 WDIY GLOSS RAC
28 MCC WDIY JUCLV GLOSS Tennis	29 RAA	30 LVGMC	31 HAVEN FW-WDIY SPECTRUM			



**Pride** - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.prideglv.org>  
**Progressive Students Alliance** - www.lehigh.edu/~inpsua/lvpsa/whatsa.htm  
**Quakers** - LV Friends Meeting - Rt 512 N of Rte 22 Bethlehem, Worship 9:30am. 610-691-3411.  
**RAA** - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

**Rainbow Families** - donniearluca@msn.com  
**Ren** - Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org  
**Reading P-FLAG** - 610-967-5219

**Reading Pride** - Festival in Reading www.readingpridecelebration.org  
**SC Sanctuary Counseling** - GT Support Group 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com  
**Safe Space** - At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973  
**Spectrum** - LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-685-0888

**UUCLV** - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.  
**VGP** - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org  
**Wachovia-GALEA** - Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

## SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

**RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS SANCTUARY COUNSELING - 1ST & 3RD MONDAY**  
**READING PRIDE MTG - 3RD MONS**  
**READING PRIDE COMS-WEDS**  
**LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUES**  
**ALLENTOWN PFLAG - 1ST TUES**  
**LV HAVEN - WEDS**  
**READING SPECTRUM - WEDS**  
**MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS**  
**FRANK WHELAN WDIY - WEDS**  
**POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS**  
**BUCKS CTY PFLAG - 3RD THUR**  
**MCCLV 20'-30'S - LAST THURS**  
**GLOSS RAC-BALL-TUES & SAT**  
**GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - THURS**  
**GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI**  
**MCCLV POTLUCK - LAST SUN**  
**ALL SOULS - SUNS**  
**LV BEARS - 1ST SAT**  
**RENAISSANCE - 2ND SAT**  
**INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAY**  
**GLOSS TENNIS - SUNS**

**JAN 10 - CIVIC AUDITIONS**  
**JAN 21 - ANI DIFRANCO**  
**JAN 28 - GLV PRIDE**  
**JAN 28 - TOUCHSTONE**  
**FEB 6 - 14 FTM**  
**MARRIAGE EQUALITY WEEK**  
**FEB 8 - LEGISLATIVE ACTION**  
**DAYIN HARRISBURG**  
**FEB 8 - 12- PDN PHOTO PROJECT**  
**IN CAPITAL ROTUNDA**  
**FEB 12 - MCCLV COURT**  
**HOUSE ACTION**  
**FEB 13- MCCLV FTM SERVICE**  
**FEB 13- READING PRIDE**  
**FEB 26-27 - TOUCHSTONE**  
**FEB 28- BARK & WINE**  
**MAR 7- HINEINI@LAYAFETTE**  
**MAR 9 - HINEINI@JCC ATWN**  
**MAR 25 - LILY TOMLIN**

## PDN LEADERS INVITED TO GLBT RIGHTS FORUM VIP TOURS, IN WASHINGTON

PA Diversity Network Executive Director Liz Bradbury and Board President Patricia Sullivan were invited by the staff of Senator Robert Casey's office to join 27 other GLBT activists at a GLBT Civil Rights and Issues Forum in the Dirksen Center of the Capitol in Washington DC, on December 17. PDN E.D. Liz Bradbury was also asked to help arrange for GLBT activist families with children to attend this event. So PDN Board members and Rainbow Families Leaders Earl and Donnie Snyder, and Dr. Elizabeth Goff, (Planet Parenthood column founder) and her daughters, also attended this historic set of events.

Participants in the forum were also invited to special VIP Tours of the Capitol and the White House. The White House especially asked that GLBT families with children be part of the VIP Holiday White House tour, that evening. Hosting and organizing the events were: Senator Robert P. Casey Jr., Bryn McDonough, Legislative Assistant, Christina Baumgardner, Legislative Correspondent, Josh Yearsley, New Media and Technology Director, Jesse Salazar, Special Assistant and Field Representative

Roundtable Participants were: Ceil B. Bell, Elizabeth Bradbury, Jeffrey M. Brauer, James H. Bryson, Lee F. Carson, Robert B. Casey, Sophia I. Cruz, Abbe Fletman, Stephen A. Glassman, Elizabeth Y. Goff, Emily D. Goff, Willow D. Goff, Linda S. Henderson, Betty J. Hill, Duane C. Ingram, Bruce A. Kraus, Christopher R. Labonte, Stormy A. Lundy, Rafael L. Mayoral Morales, Hugh F. McGough, Jack McGrath, Guillermo L. Mena, Kathleen R. Padilla, Alexander R. Reber, Kristin d. Rust, Elizabeth Shupp-George, Brian K. Sims, Donald L. Snyder, Earl M. Snyder, Lucas A. Snyder, Patricia J. Sullivan, Bob Szwajkos

## RAINBOW PLAYERS

The February production of SOILED is postponed to the end of March. Check rainbowplayers.mcclv.org for information.

Rainbow Players welcomes Steve Rosenblum as Company Stage Manager.

Looking for director/musical director for the June 4-5 production of the musical revue, "Q - The Songs of Dan Martin & Michael Biello." The musical numbers are deftly linked together by advice from Tippy, a drag queen who gives us "Q" Tips.

Catch Rainbow Players' Artistic Director, Dean Hiatt, in the PA Playhouse production of "The Tale of The Allergist's Wife" by Charles Busch, running weekends, January 29th through February 14th. For more details, check out their website at www.paplayhouse.org.



## RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

**BEST OF 2009: THE VIEW FROM TWO OPINIONATED GAYS- STEPHEN LIBBY & GARY GAUGLER** It's like Siskel and freakin' Ebert at our house. What follows is a censored version of our favorites from 2009 entertainment offerings.

**Movies-Gary** 1. District 9 - A refreshing take on the old "Alien story." Finally the humans are the villains. 2. Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince - Cheers to the HP directors for making these movies dark enough that they're not just for kids. 3. G.I. Joe - An action-packed update to a classic franchise. A reboot worth watching.

**Movies-Steve**: 1. Star Trek- I just loved everything about it. It's what a summer blockbuster should be. And have I mentioned how hot Chris Pine is lately? Ow! Gary just hit me. 2. The Hangover- It's what a summer blockbuster should be that doesn't star Chris Pine. Ow! Knock it off!! 3. District 9- Had Chris Pine been in this...Hey you wouldn't be hitting me so hard if this was Twitter.

**T.V. Shows-Gary**: 1. Melrose Place - While the new cast and plot leaves you unfulfilled, props to Heather Locklear and Laura Leighton for trying to bring back the campiness of the original. 2. Modern Family - While not like any family I know, it's nice to see a show that embraces the non-traditional family and doesn't feel forced. 3. Desperate Housewives - Who knew housewives' lives could be so interesting. Mental breakdowns, catfights, and plane crashes litter Wisteria Lane in its sixth season.

**TV Shows-Steve**: 1. Cougar Town- Courtney Cox is aging well. I hope this show does the same. 2. Glee- I dare you not to smile!! Sometimes Gary even cries. Paybacks... 3. Modern Family- Gary's full of sh\*t! This is JUST like his family!!

**Songs-Gary**: 1. Pokerface - Lady Gaga entertains not just with her outrageous façade but also with her powerful pipes. 2. I Got a Feelin' - The Black Eyed Peas have made a song that makes every occasion a party. This is the ultimate "lift your glass" song. 3. Bad Romance - I'm sorry! I just love Gaga

**Songs-Steve**: 1. Sex is on Fire- Use Somebody was a bigger hit but I stand by this rocker from Kings of Leon. 2. Love Drunk- Imagine Sugar Sugar by the Archies after they had been up all night doing drugs then hitting Starbucks for a double mocha espresso after a six pack of Redbull to wash down the speed and that gets you only half way through this jam. 3. Pokerface- Because it makes Gary so happy to hear it. And when Gary's happy everybody's happy.

We hope you discovered some new favorites this past year. Here's to more Gaga in 2010 and a Star Trek sequel real soon. Maybe they'll be transported to a naked planet. Ow!!!!





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## WHATA WONDERFUL TIME OF YEAR

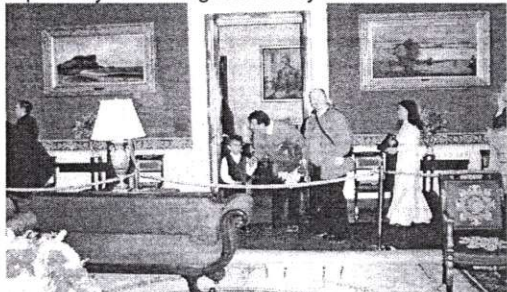
The past month has been very exciting for our family. In addition to all of the warm and wonderful family gatherings that come with the holiday season, we had a few community (and beyond) events we were fortunate to attend.

MCCLV hosted its annual Christmas party for all of their children and the LV Rainbow Families. It was co-sponsored by PA Diversity Network and PFLAG. As it had been for the past few years, it was another wonderful and fun-filled holiday event for the kids. There were multitudes of arts and crafts, caroling, a visit from Santa and his elf who gave each kid a small gift, the was story time with Liz Bradbury, and delicious cookies baked by Trish Sullivan. There were many kids. We all had a wonderful time and some beautiful family holiday memories were made once again. For all of their effort, Carol Stevens and MCCLV deserve a great big "thank you". It is an event we really look forward to each year.

Our family had also been invited by Timothy Gardner who is the advisor/facilitator of the LGBTQIA student group at Lehigh University, to be part of a panel comprised of members from diverse families who were asked to present their stories to the student group. On the panel there were gay dads, lesbian moms, children of gay parents, and a former spouse of a gay parent. The audience was very attentive and quite interested in what the panelists had to say with regards to how to go about becoming a gay parent, how children of gay parents deal with the issue, and how society in general reacts to these diverse families. The students had many questions and we honored to be considered as sources to provide information to them.

Finally, we had the honor of being invited to Washington, D.C. by Jesse Salazar, who is a member of Sen. Robert Casey's Lehigh Valley staff, to be part of a roundtable discussion on GLBT issues, hosted by the Senator.

We were humbled to find ourselves among a group consisting of doctors, lawyers, educators, social workers, artists, and activists including Liz Bradbury and Trish Sullivan, all of whom are part of the PA GLBT community. All of who are devoting a great deal of effort to our cause and dealing with our issues to help advance towards full equality for the GLBT community. This was a great opportunity to network and be able hopefully combine some separate efforts into an even larger one and to express some opinions to our political representatives. After the work was done we had a tour of the Capitol Building and the long day ended with a holiday tour of the White House that was by special invitation only. Fortunately, Lucas was on his best behavior, for a five-year old boy. Hopefully, that works in our favor in getting future invitations. We hope everyone had a great holiday season.



Lucas, Donnie, and Earl in the White House Red Room

## PLEASE PAY YOUR 2010! PA DIVERSITY NETWORK DUES

### PA DIVERSITY NETWORK IS THE LARGEST GLBT PA ADVOCACY AND INFORMATION ORGANIZATION IN PA. WORKING FOR YOUR RIGHT EVERY DAY! IN THE LAST YEAR, HERE'S WHAT PDN HAS DONE FOR YOU:

1. **Produced and circulated** a full year of the Valley Gay Press - totaling 12,000 copies that were read by 30,000 people. Direct mailed to hundreds of homes every month (this month to 1600 homes). Allowing dozens of local not-for-profit advocacy organizations a free venue to circulate information about their events. PDN also circulates important community news.
2. **Hosted or participated in over 30** community events this year, including the PDN Awards Celebration, Rainbow Family events, community entertainment, and forums.
3. **Provided direct information** on GLBT issues to hundreds of community members who contacted PDN via the Info-line, email, or by calling the PDN office.
4. **Provided the PA Diversity Network Web Site**, the largest GLBT advocacy web site in the State of PA - with over 300 GLBTA resource listings including doctors, lawyers, therapists, groups, and clubs. Provides everything from up-to-date community reports, to civil rights information, to book reviews, to program information, a Facebook PDN group with 650 members and much more.
5. **Advocated for people who were victims** of GLBT discrimination on a case by case basis.
6. **Created and presented over a dozen presentations** on GLBT Civil Rights, History, and Issues. Presentations included those at: Susquehanna U., Kutztown U. and Reading Community College, GLBT community orgs, Government venues, and Berks County Juvenile Detention Center at the request of GLBT youth residents.
7. **Continued to produce**, present, and display the national award winning PA Diversity Network Photo Project - to help educate and lobby for GLBT relationship rights. Nearly 800 local people are now in this project. This year, the entire project was presented in ten different venues.



Lucas, Donnie and Earl take the special underground train for Senators and Senate staff, from the Dirksen Center to the Capitol.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



## FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker

### HINEINI: COMING OUT IN A JEWISH HIGH SCHOOL THE FILM

No...No...I no you are not gay, but you see - I am, and... I am starting this Gay Straight Alliance, will you help." Those words belong to Shulamit, a high school student from a Jewish high school in the greater Boston area who is the focus of the film "Hineini: Coming Out in a Jewish High School". The film, produced by Keshet, a Boston-based LGBT Jewish organization, is about the Shulamit's struggle to create a Gay-Straight Alliance in her Jewish high school.

PDN is proud to be a sponsor of two local screenings of this film, organized by The Jewish and Israeli Film Series of the Lehigh Valley. Another sponsor of the screenings is the Lafayette College LGBT student group "QuEST: Questioning Established Sexual Taboos" You can read the synopsis here:

HINEINI (Hebrew for 'Here I am') chronicles the story of one student's courageous fight to establish a gay-straight alliance at a Jewish high school in the Boston area and the transformative impact of her campaign on her entire community.

Longing to connect more deeply with her Jewish identity, Shulamit enters 9th grade at The New Jewish High School (now Gann Academy) in Waltham, Massachusetts. She also starts school as an out lesbian. Beyond the struggle to create a supportive environment for gay and lesbian students and teachers at the school, this is the story of a community wrestling with the very definition of pluralism and diversity in a Jewish context.

**USA, 2005, 60 Minutes, Color, Documentary**  
**English (with minimal Hebrew in subtitles)**  
<http://www.hineinithefilm.org/>

**The screenings will take place on:**

March 7, 2010 at 12:00pm at Lafayette College, beginning with a Brunch at the Lafayette College Hillel (524 Clinton Terrace, Easton), followed by the 1:30pm screening and panel discussion in the Kirby Hall of Civil Rights (room 104).

March 9 at 7:30pm at the Jewish Community Center in Allentown (722 N 22nd Street, Allentown) followed by the panel discussion.

The panel includes:  
Adrian Shanker, Pennsylvania Diversity Network  
Rabbi Rachel Weiss, Congregation Am Haskalah  
Rabbi Moshe Re'em, Temple Beth El  
Todd Hacker, openly gay member of Temple Beth El

## TOUCHSTONE THEATRE

January 28, 8pm - Touchstone presents a concert reading of a new play, "Clytemnestra's Daughters," by Christopher Shorr (Moravian College Faculty) adapted from three Greek tragedies. Performed by Touchstone Theatre ensemble members, apprentices, and Moravian Students. Admission is free.

February 26 & 27, Touchstone Theatre presents "Fresh Voices," created and performed by the Touchstone Apprentices. "Fresh Voices" is original actor-created, ensemble-based works in progress. Tickets are "Pay-What-You-Will" at the door.

Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015/www.touchstone.org/610-867-1689

## LEHIGH VALLEY FOOD CO-OP

The Lehigh Valley Food Cooperative has just signed onto PDN's statement of anti-discrimination. The Coop's mission is to sustain their members, their local farmers, and their communities by providing local and organically-grown products whenever they are available. They are owned, run, and governed by a membership that involves all of their producers and buyers. At present their website - [www.lvfood.coop](http://www.lvfood.coop) - hosts a virtual farmers' market for the Lehigh Valley, where members can buy and sell locally-grown food. As not all foods are available locally, they also offer a wide-range of bulk foods such as flour, rice and soy milk. Drop-off sites are located throughout the Lehigh Valley. They welcome you to visit them online or at our storefront in Emmaus. Free gift with purchase of \$20 or more! 610-421-8229

## VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org)  
Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury  
Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan  
Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer, Adrian Shanker, Phil Healing, A'JA Lyons and others

**Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP)** operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network**. VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher. VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The editorial columns, articles, and cartoons that appear in the Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation or gender identity of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

**Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:**

**Metropolitan Community Church LV**  
930 N. Street, Allentown 610-709-8800  
**PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville** -- see meeting schedule  
**Pride House** at Muhlenberg College, Allentown  
**19th Street Theater** -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown  
**Touchstone Theatre** in Bethlehem  
**Many Libraries in Berks County, Allentown Main Library**  
**Planned Parenthood NEPA** 48 S. 4th St. Reading  
**Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County), Reading Community Theatre** - 11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading  
**Allen HS GSA, SPECTRUM GLOSS, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center**  
**Reading Area Community College Library**  
**Many area GSAs in High Schools and Colleges**

**Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:**

**Diamond Nightclub** -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem  
**Stonewall Bar** -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown  
**Candida's** -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown  
**Hava Java Coffee Shop** -- N. 19th St. Allentown  
**Dreamscape Comics** -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem  
**The Woods Campground**  
**Red Star Saloon** -- 11 S. 10th St, Reading  
**Sanctuary Counseling** -- 515 Old Swede Road, Douglassville

**Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September.** Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month. PDN's membership cycle begins in January. Circulation: 1000-2000 papers per issue. Readership: 3500, monthly, 35k readers a year.

**To Contact Valley Gay Press:**

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002  
Phone: 610-432-5449 Email:

[info@padiversity.org](mailto:info@padiversity.org)

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP.

Some restrictions apply.





# MEMBERSHIP FORM

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior dues (over 65) \$5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual dues \$20
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family dues \$25

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN. Additional contribution  
Make checks payable to PDN.

<input type="checkbox"/>	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>	other
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**LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:**

**PDN  
PO BOX 22902  
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002**

**BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:**

**PDN  
PO BOX 242  
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539**

**BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK  
TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS**

**PLEASE PAY YOUR  
PA DIVERSITY NETWORK  
2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES  
JUST \$20 / \$25  
PLEASE SUPPORT PDN BY  
PAYING YOUR DUES NOW**

Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just \$20 for an individual membership and \$25 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 400 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2009 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

**PAY YOUR PDN  
DUES NOW!  
AND THEY WILL BE GOOD  
THROUGH JAN. 2010.  
YOU CAN PAY THEM ONLINE  
AT PADIVERSITY.ORG**

**CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO**

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

**PA DIVERSITY NETWORK HAS BEEN APPROVED  
FOR A \$5000 REVITALIZATION GRANT  
THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, SECURED BY  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER MANN**



2009 Recap Photo Trish Sullivan staffs the PDN booth at Reading Pride - where GLBTA people signed hundreds of cards to legislators in favor of marriage equality

**CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG**



## What's That About?



Readers, write or email "What's That About?" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.



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### Dear What's That About:

I've read that the Boy Scouts (BSA) and the Salvation Army are anti-gay, and that some cities with non-discrimination policies deny them free rent. But don't they have a right to let whom they please into their groups? **Signed Donor**

**Dear Donor,** The BSA has insisted to the US Supreme Court that their mission includes denial of services to gay youth and adults. And the courts agreed that as a mission driven group they can do that. But that doesn't mean everyone has to financially support their policy. If the Boys Scouts wants full support, all they have to do is stop discriminating against GLBT people.

So who should we donate to? Simple: those local grassroots GLBT not-for-profit advocacy groups first! After that those mainstream groups that are fully GLBT supportive.

Consider this:

The Lehigh Valley Food Co-op, at their December membership meeting, elected a new board of directors, including PFLAG leader and PDN member Melinda Kohn, and passed, with no objection, revised by-laws with the following non-discrimination statement:

**"The Lehigh Valley Food Co-op does not discriminate in regard to race, color, religion, national origin, place of ancestry, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, family status, age, handicap or disability, use of guide animal, height or weight."**

(LV Food Co-op can be contacted at <http://lvfood.coop/>)

Note that mainstream organizations have a clear choice about how they frame their by-laws and whether or not they support GLBT rights and equality. Mainstream groups like the Lehigh Valley Food Coop, the 6th Street Shelter in Allentown, Turning Point, Crime Victims Council and The Old Allentown Preservation Association have chosen to be fully supportive and should receive our full support in return.

But groups like Godfrey Daniel's, the Allentown Rescue Mission, Moravian College and St. Luke's Hospital have made the choice to not fully support GLBT rights and equality. They should change their policies before our community fully supports them.

Groups like the Boy Scouts, the Knights of Columbus, the Roman Catholic Church, The Church of the Latter Day Saints and the Salvation Army have made the decision to actively and publicly promote discrimination against GLBT people and use their resources to fund efforts to take GLBT rights away, and each of these groups have statements on their web sites that expressly condemn GLBT people. For example, the Salvation Army has publicly threatened to remove services for all people when equal rights laws have passed. And the Salvation Army presents this statement on its public web site:

**"Scripture opposes homosexual practices by direct comment and also by clearly implied disapproval. The Bible treats such practices as self-evidently abnormal. ...[S]ame-sex relationships which are genitally expressed are unacceptable according to the teaching of Scripture. Attempts to establish or promote such relationships as viable alternatives to heterosexually-based family life do not conform to God's will for society...."**

It's the Salvation Army's choice to include this language on their web site. It's up to us to decide which organizations to support.

## SCOTTY IN THE CITY

By Scott Paulner

### 2009 RECAP

2009 proved to be a memorable year for the New York GLBT community. There were some defeats this year but there were some victories as well. From the ridiculous to the sublime here are some of the memorable events for 2009.

In April, Bea Arthur, beloved star of stage and screen, died in Los Angeles. A New Yorker at heart, in her will she left \$300,000 to the Ali Forney Center, A New York City Organization that provides housing to homeless GLBT youth.

Also in that month The GLBT community watched the soap opera also known as the Miss USA pageant unfold. Miss California, Carrie Prejean, was asked a question by pageant judge and queen bee Perez Hilton. The question was whether she thought every state should legalize same sex marriage. She responded in the negative and won the first runner up title. She claimed to have lost the crown because of her answer. She seemed to be all over the news turning up everywhere until her eight sex tapes surfaced. Her fifteen minutes of fame were over faster than she could press "record" for number nine.

The community was out in full force to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots and the Heritage of Pride March in June. Thousands marched down 5th Avenue. I marched this year and it was one not to be missed.

In September the Fox Network launched a new series called Glee and ABC brought us Modern Family. Both shows have a positive gay influence on pop culture. If you aren't watching them you should be.

My governor, Governor Patterson, signed an executive order recognizing same sex marriages that are performed in other states/countries where they are legal. In November a legal attempt to throw out these orders was rejected by the New York State Supreme Court.

November also saw Adam Lambert getting everybody hot and bothered at the American Music Awards. Now he is always announced as "the controversial Adam Lambert." I'll take his controversy any day. While Lady GaGa reached out to freaks of all kinds and invited them all to join her Fame Monsterride

Sara Palin did not visit the Big Apple on her book tour but her former future son-in-law, Levi Johnston, did come to pose for Playgirl.

The year ended on a sour note for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender New Yorkers and their friends and families. On December 3 Senate Democrats bravely brought the Same Sex marriage bill to the Senate floor. The final vote went against us 38 to 24. Some upstate Republican senators voted "no." That was not surprising. What was surprising were Democratic senators from Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx who voted "no." That baffles and angers me. (BTW I live in a district with a state senator who voted "No") Stay tuned for future columns about the GLBT community in Astoria getting organized and getting that bozo out of the Senate.

We've got work to do in 2010!! Enjoy the Holiday season (or what's left of it) and Happy New Year Chipmunk Readers

**"SCOTTY IN THE CITY"**  
ALTERNATES MONTHLY WITH  
**"A LITTLE BIT OF HEALING"**

**THIS YEAR, NEW YEAR'S COMES ON A BLUE MOON.**  
A blue moon is when there are two full moons in one month.





# POP QUIZ 12

Who played either Scrooge or Santa in these movies (or this event):

1. Santa in "Elf" 2003
2. Santa in "Call me Claus" 2001
3. "Scrooged" 1988
4. "Mr. Magoo's Christmas Carol" 1962
5. "The Santa Clause" 1994
6. "Bad Santa" 2003
7. "The Muppet's Christmas Carol" 1992
8. "Scrooge - The Musical" 1970
9. "Ebbie" 1995
10. "Miracle on 34th Street" 1947
11. "A Christmas Carol" 1938
12. "Rainbow Families Christmas Party" 2009

- A. Billy Bob Thornton  
B. Edmund Gwenn  
C. Jim Backus  
D. Michael Caine  
E. Reginald Owen  
F. Albert Finney  
G. Cicely Tyson  
H. Don Kohn  
I. Tim Allen  
J. Ed Asner  
K. Bill Murray  
L. Whoopie Goldberg

J 1 2 L 3 K 4 C 5 I 6 A 7 D 8 E 9 G 10 B 11 E 12 H

**PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK  
THANKS THE UNITED WAY AND  
COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN THE  
UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN WHO  
CHOSE PDN FOR THEIR  
DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS!!!**

## VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW REVIEW BY A'JA LYONS THE HOUSE YOU PASS ON THE WAY BY JACQUELINE WOODSON

LGBT Young Adult novels are becoming more prevalent but many seem repetitive. Jacqueline Woodson's "The House You Pass On The Way", breaks away from the monotonous love or horror themes that are featured in many young adult novels. Though the book is just a little over 100 pages it is richly multi-layered, deftly tackling the subjects of race, sexuality, and identity.

Woodson's protagonist Evangeline, who insists on being called "Staggerlee", is a biracial teenager living in a small town in the deep South. Her father is Black and her mother is white and she has many siblings, which causes numerous stares and whispers in the predominantly Black town they live in. In addition to being an interracial family, they live in a very large home suspiciously far from the rest of the townspeople, which adds to local gossip. Staggerlee's classmates presume she is arrogant because of her light skin and wavy hair. She is repeatedly asked whether she is Black or white. Staggerlee identifies as both or neither, and sees herself and her family as individuals regardless of their skin color. Unbeknownst to her family or friends, Staggerlee knows without question that she is a lesbian.

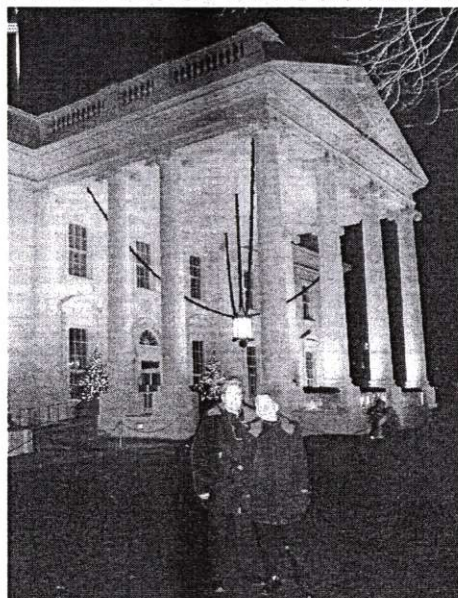
Author Woodson skillfully details and explores the prejudice, racism, and reverse racism that continues to exist in small town America, without using obvious racial or anti-gay slurs. The author successfully deals with self-discovery and young GLBT adult issues, without clichés.

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley & Berks County if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network  
GLBT Infoline  
PA-GALA  
Rainbow Families  
Valley Gay Press  
Allentown Human Relations Commission  
Safe-Space of Lehigh University  
PFLAG Lehigh Valley  
ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women  
GLORIA  
Pride of the GLV  
LV Gay Men's Chorus  
NCC GLBT Student Union  
The Lehigh Valley Labor Party  
EQUAL at Agere  
Metropolitan Community Church LV  
OutThere - Cedar Crest  
9th Street Shelter Allentown  
LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products  
FACT  
AIDS Outreach  
The Unitarian Universalist Church LV  
GLOSS  
LEPOCO  
GLJSN of Dun & Bradstreet  
AIDS Services Center  
Theatre Outlet  
Integrity - Bethlehem  
The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
Civic Theater  
19th Street Theatre  
The Latin Alliance  
The Enigma Players  
New Covenant Family Ministries  
Properties of Merit  
Allentown City Democratic Committee  
Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem  
Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance  
LV Turning Point  
Muhlenberg Theater Association  
LV Crime Victims Council  
Touchstones Theater  
Congregation Am Baskalah  
LV Progressive Students' Alliance  
The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown  
United Friends School  
Quakers  
LV Transsexual Coalition  
Lehigh Valley Transmen  
Old Allentown Preservation Association  
The Center for Animal Health and Welfare  
WDIY  
All Souls Ecumenical Church in Reading  
Lehigh Valley Food Cooperative

## PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



PA Diversity Network Executive Director & Board Pres Liz Bradbury & Patricia Sullivan after GLBTissues discussion and VIP tour of the White House.

See more info & photos on pages 2,7,8. and a photo album at [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org).



Santa and his Elf Staff at the Rainbow Families Kid's Christmas Party at MCCLV on December 5th see a full photo album of this party at [www.padiversity.org](http://www.padiversity.org)

## QUOTE #1

"Went to the meadow to build a snowman and pretend that he was Parson Brown. He said, 'are you married?' I said, 'No, man... we live in a country where the divorce rate is fifty percent, yet hypocrite lawmakers claim that giving legal recognition to my relationship would jeopardize the sanctity of marriage.' " -- Rob Hopkins' recent Facebook status